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SUBJ: Soviet Draft Moon Treaty

Following is FBIS text of Moscow Tass report/in English regarding Sov draft moon treaty.

BEGIN TEXT: The Soviet Government submitted to UN a draft treaty concerning moon.

On instructions from Government, the Foreign Minister of USSR, Andrei Gromyko, asked U Thant, UN SYG, to include in agenda of 26th GA session an item QTE on the elaboration of an international treaty concerning the moon UNQTE and forwarded him a draft document.

QTE. In Opinion of Sov Government, A. Gromyko's letter says, steps should be taken now with object of further elaborating and giving concrete expression to standards of international law regulating activity of states on moon. Moon, as only

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natural satellite of earth, plays an important part in exploration of outer space and shall be used exclusively in interests of peace and for good of all mankind. It is necessary to prevent activity of states on moon from becoming a source of international conflicts. It is necessary to furnish a legal foundation for possible use of moon. Conclusion of a relevant international treaty would accord with this task UNQTE.

Draft treaty concerning moon, Andrei Gromyko writes, contains following main provisions:

Exploration and use of moon are effected taking into consideration interests of present and future generations;

Use of force and any other hostile actions, and also use of moon for committing such actions with regard to earth is barred on moon;

Ban is reaffirmed on deployment of nuclear weapons

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and other weapons of mass annihilation on the moon, and also on other activity aimed at using moon for military purposes;

Exploration and use of moon shall be effected by means ensuring prevention of an unfavorable change and pollution of lunar environment;

Surface and entrails of moon cannot be property of states, international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, national organizations, juridical or physical persons;

Signatory states shall take all possible steps with object of preserving life and health of man on moon.

Draft treaty emphasizes that moon is used by all states, signatories to treaty, exclusively for peaceful purposes. Setting up of military bases on moon, structures and fortifications, testing of any types of weapons and

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and holding of military exercises are banned.

Signatory states, draft says, shall strive for cooperation on questions related to activities on moon. They can conduct their activity in exploration and use of moon at any place of its surface, its entrails and near-lunar space.

Actions of states, signatories to treaty, must not create obstacles to activity of other states on moon.

Signatory states must grant right to persons in distress, who are on moon and belong to personnel of another signatory state, to take shelter in their stations, in their apparatuses, structures or equipment.

This treaty, draft document says, shall be open for signature to all states. Any state, which does not sign this treaty before it comes into force, can accede to it at any time. END TEXT

ROGERS

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